



The Advocate

The Newsletter for the MSW Student Organization

January 2002

Rhode Island College School of Social Work www.ric.edu/mswso

Welcome to the second half!

HURRY-UP HUMAN BIOLOGY: EASING THE STRAIN

Since the start of the fall 2001 semester, many first year MSW students were wondering why some of them had to take a human biology course as a prerequisite for entrance into RIC's master of social work program. Of course human biology is a relevant course but was it relevant enough for social work? According to the accreditation board of social work, the answer is yes, so if RIC wanted to stay accredited then we all had to take it. What we didn't know, because it was not specified, was that we had the freedom to do a human biology course over the Internet. The majority of the students thought we had to take the course over the summer in a classroom. Most of us took time out of our busy schedules, missing our kids' athletic games or missing hours of work where the pay could have helped our households.

Now that the issue has been raised with the MSWSO organization, we will be making efforts to help future students of RIC's School of Social Work know that they have the option of taking the biology class over the Internet. We must also let them know that, along with doing the class over the Internet, they must somehow be monitored to make sure it is done in a fair manner.

Dean Metrey graciously agreed to meet with me to review the problem and explore solutions. In talking with Dean Metrey, he helpfully clarified that the resources are scarce for student monitoring over the Internet during the summer sessions. Nonetheless, there are resources for students, but they must do the research themselves to find them. The MSWSO will do all that it can to support the students in their search for help on this subject matter.

Online courses are now available to new students. Louisiana State University is the only undergraduate school specifically offering a human biology course for social work online. The University of Calgary, Univ. of Texas, Lewis-Clark State College, and Beloit College in Wisconsin all offer human biology online but students must check exactly when they are offered and how to engage the programs. In addition to finding these courses, the MSWSO is attempting to work in conjunction with the biology department at RIC to provide an online human biology summer course. We will keep you posted. -Stephen Alexander

□ MSWSO Officers □

Louise MacLellan, *Co-Pres* Stephen Alexander *Co-Pres* Frank Corrigan *Vice-President* Judy Gorman *Treasurer*
Patricia Greene, *Co-Secretary* Randy Oftedahl, *newsletter & website* Nancy Gewirtz, *Faculty Advisor*



**Join the MSWSO
and make a
difference at the
School of Social
Work!
Check us out at
www.ric.edu/mswso**

**The Next Meeting of the MSWSO....
is February 7 at 7 PM
Student Lounge School of Social Work**



**Welcome Advanced
Standing Students!**

Sure it may seem a little confusing at first, but the MSWSO wants to WELCOME YOU to the RIC MSW program!

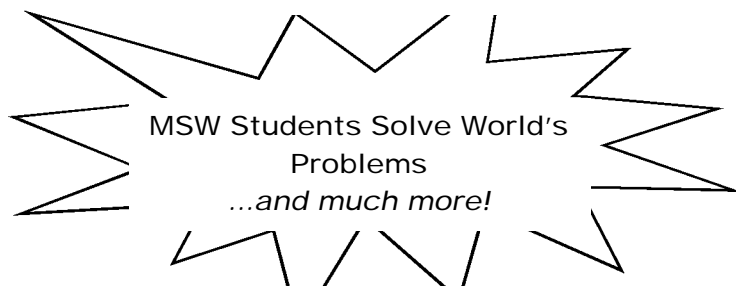
Returning students – when you meet an Advanced Standing student – give them an encouraging word!

We want to welcome you also to the MSWSO –(go to our website at www.ric.edu/mswso to sign up) and encourage you to add you voices to our student organization.

The Advanced Standing students are:

Cristina Cerce
Lois Colwell
Alexis Dolock
Melissa McVicker
Darlene Palermo
Wendy Sjostrom
Erin Wert

In the next issue of The Advocate...



Coming to a wastebasket near you last week of February

Absolutely FREE!!

A terrific new magazine, Social Work Today is packed full of great info (and it's paid for through advertising). Go to www.socialworktoday.com and sign up for your FREE subscription.

“Economic Recovery for All”

**Rhode Island Campaign to Eliminate
Childhood Poverty**

11th Annual Action Conference

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2002

**Providence Marriott - One Orms Street-
Providence, RI**

**Registration: 8:00 -9:00 AM,Conference:
9:00 to 3:30**

**Keynote Speaker: Scott Molloy, Professor,
Schmidt Labor Research Center,
University of Rhode Island
call (401) 728-5555 for more information**

MSWSO Officers:

Louise MacLellan *co-President*
LnLresort@aol.com
Stephen Alexander *co-president*
jdandrow@hotmail.com
Frank Corrigan *Vice-President*
thefranker@earthlink.net
Judy Gorman *Treasurer*
redsoxjudy@aol.com
Patricia Greene *co-Secretary*
Randy Oftedahl *Web Man-
ager* randy@oftedahl.com